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INSECT AND DISEASE REPORT

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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE DETECTION SURVEY OF THE KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST, MONTANA

by

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The annual forest insect and disease detection survey of the Kootenai National Forest was flown in early August. Ground checks of significant damage were made during the week of September 13. The following is a brief synopsis of current conditions (Fig. 1).

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE, Dendroctonus ponderosae Hopk.--Infestations have apparently spread over the ridge from the Lightning Creek drainage on the Kaniksu National Forest into Callahan Creek on the Troy District, but in very limited numbers to date. The North Fork of Big Creek and Pete Creek also contain mountain pine beetle infestations. In the Big Creek drainage, dead western white pine were evident along the bottom of Meisler Creek. Four 1971 attacks were detected. Infestations also occur in Pete Creek from the Pete Creek loop road north to section 25. Sixteen dead trees were detected, only one of which was a current year's attack.

DOUGLAS-FIR BEETLE, Dendroctonus pseudotsugae Hopk.--Douglas-fir beetle activity has increased significantly over 1970. Several small groups were detected near Troy and many small groups occur throughout the Fisher River drainage. In Buck Creek, three overmature Douglas-fir were found with active infestations. Infestations ranged in size from 3 to 10 trees in Cow Creek; however, only one 1971 attack was found.

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The Douglas-fir beetle was active in Elk Creek east of the Raven Ranger Station. More than 11 groups (3 to 50 trees in size) contained trees attacked in 1970. Ten 1971 attacks were observed. It is expected that this infestation will continue in 1972.

PINE ENGRAVER, Ips pini (Say)--Infestations appear in a few scattered locations--Snell Creek, Midas Creek, and lower elevations of the Fisher and Kootenai Rivers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The mountain pine beetle tends to maintain a chronic level of infestation in overmature western white pine and may eventually kill all trees 10 inches d.b.h. and over. Removal of currently infested trees from old growth stands would do much to reduce additional tree killing by the beetle.

LEGEND

- 1 - Douglas-fir beetle
 - 3 - Pine engraver beetle (Ips)
 - 4 - Mountain pine beetle

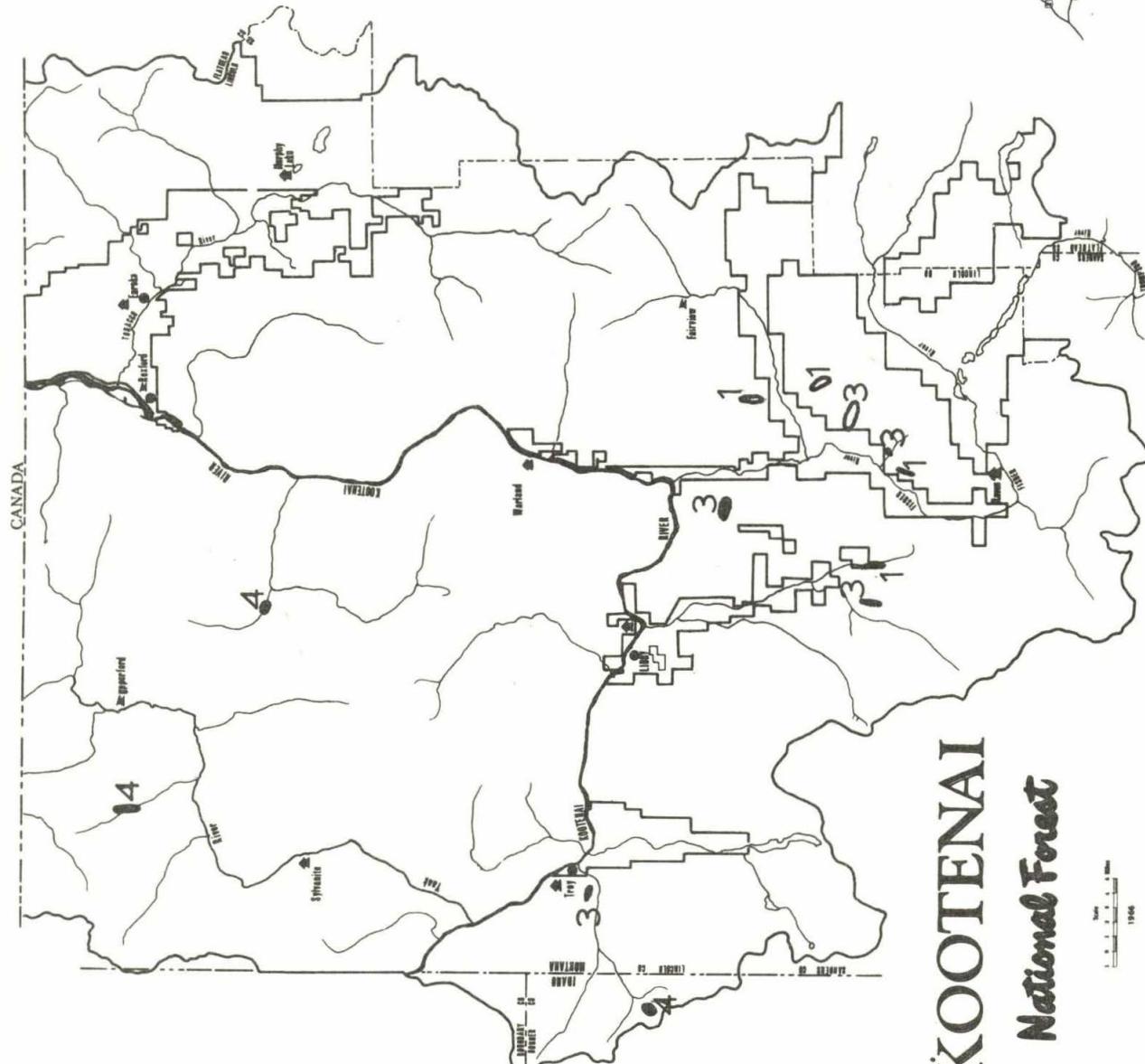


Figure 1.--Forest insect and disease status, Kootenai NF, 1971.